

Electrical safety requirements apply to energy-saving power strips

WattStopper™ multi-outlet power strips are being distributed across the site as an energy-saving measure. They include a motion sensor that will turn off six outlets on the strip when the work area has been unoccupied for a preset period of time.

The Hanford Workplace Electrical Safety Board and the Hanford Fire Marshall support efforts to conserve energy. They want to remind users, however, that these devices are subject to the same safety requirements as other multi-outlet strips.



The WattStopper power strip

These requirements apply to the WattStopper strips:

- They must be connected directly to permanently installed receptacle outlets, not to other outlet strips or to extension cords. This requirement comes from the UL listing instructions and NFPA 1, the *Uniform Fire Code*.
- They must be protected against physical damage from sharp corners, heat sources and other hazards.
- They must not be permanently connected to building surfaces or furniture.
- They must not be overloaded with electrical equipment beyond their rated capacity.

It is especially important that you use caution if you have high-wattage appliances that could overload the power strip. Space heaters, for example, should not be connected to power strips. Heaters should be connected only to permanent building outlets, because even a single heater could overload a power strip and create a fire hazard. Remember, too, that space heaters used at Hanford must be approved by a fire-protection engineer.

Several medium-wattage appliances could also cause an overload. If you are unsure about how much load you are connecting to a power strip, talk to your manager or contact a maintenance organization near you for help.

Some power strips may have other limitations of use depending on the specific type. Be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If you have questions regarding the safe use of WattStoppers or have other electrical safety questions, contact Paul Case at 376-1168 or Bob Gray at 373-7221. A list of electrical safety points of contact for each of the Hanford contractors is on the Hanford Electrical Safety Program (HESP) Web site at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/hesp/index.cfm?PageNum=19>.

For more about the acceptable use of multi-outlet power strips and extension cords, see the compliance guide for companies on the Fluor Hanford team, available on the HESP Web site at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/hesp/docs/32/docs/ESCG-2002-01.pdf>. ■